

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 21091 01 OF 02 211628Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 ACDA-12 /073 W
-----116722 211658Z /43

O R 211614Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4193
AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 21091

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PGOV, MILI, BQG, AKB
SUBJECT: RUMORS OF NEW GDR MOVES AFFECTING ACCESS TO
EAST BERLIN

REFS: (A) BERLIN 9234; (B) USBER 3174

BEGIN SUMMARY: GDR MOVES SUCH AS THOSE DESCRIBED IN
REFTELS, WHILE ONLY RUMOR THUS FAR, WOULD HAVE A
CERTAIN LOGIC FROM THE EASTERN POINT OF VIEW. AS
THEY WOULD SERVE FURTHER TO ELIMINATE THE DISTINCTIONS
BETWEEN EAST BERLIN AND THE GDR AND TO HAMPER ALLIED
FREE MOVEMENT WITHIN BERLIN, PRIOR THINKING ON HOW THE
ALLIES WOULD REACT TO SUCH MEASURES SEEMS REQUIRED. WE
PLAN TO HAVE A PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION IN THE BONN GROUP
TOMORROW AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER THOUGHTS
FROM USBER OR AMEMBASSY BERLIN. END SUMMARY.

1. RECOLLECTIONS OF THE MEASURES TAKEN BY THE GDR THIS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 21091 01 OF 02 211628Z

TIME LAST YEAR CAUSE US TO REGARD THE RUMORS REPORTED
IN REFTELS WITH A DEGREE OF CONCERN. WE RECOGNIZE THAT
THE RUMORS MAY BE TOTALLY WITHOUT FOUNDATION, BUT THE
MOVES DESCRIBED WOULD HAVE A CERTAIN LOGIC, FROM THE
GDR AND SOVIET VIEWPOINTS. WE THUS AGREE WITH USBER
THAT SOME CONTINGENCY THINKING IS CALLED FOR.

2. WE TAKE IT AS A GIVEN THAT THE GDR, HAVING EMBARKED ON A COMPROMISE LAST YEAR TO ELIMINATE THE REMAINING DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN EAST BERLIN AND THE GDR, WILL CONTINUE THAT CAMPAIGN WHENEVER IT CAN WITH WHATEVER SMALL STEPS THE SOVIETS WILL FROM TIME TO TIME PERMIT. THE TWO MEASURES DESCRIBED WOULD SERVE THAT END.

3. CLOSING CHECKPOINT CHARLIE TO ALL TRAFFIC FROM MIDNIGHT TO 6 A.M. WOULD BE A MOVE OSTENSIBLY NOT DIRECTED AT THE ALLIES IN GENERAL OR AT ALLIED PATROLS IN PARTICULAR. IT WOULD HAVE, AND COULD BE EXPLAINED IN TERMS OF, A RATIONALE OF ITS OWN. BUT IF THE MEASURE WERE IMPLEMENTED IT WOULD HAVE THE DESIRABLE SIDE EFFECT OF BLOCKING, FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE WAR, RELATIVELY FREE ACCESS TO EAST BERLIN BY ALLIED MILITARY PERSONNEL--AND THIS FOR ONE-FOURTH OF EACH DAY. IT WOULD AT A MINIMUM BE A FOOT IN THE DOOR FOR OTHER PIECEMEAL RESTRICTIONS ON SUCH ACCESS.

4. REQUIRING FOREIGN DIPLOMATS ACCREDITED TO THE GDR TO USE VISAED PASSPORTS RATHER THAN DIPLOMATIC ID CARDS FOR CROSSING BETWEEN EAST AND WEST BERLIN WOULD BE FULLY CONSISTENT WITH THE GDR VIEW OF THE SECTOR-SECTOR BOUNDARY AS AN INTERNATIONAL FRONTIER. IT WOULD BE A REQUIREMENT WHICH MOST OF THE WORLD WOULD FIND NOT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BONN 21091 01 OF 02 211628Z

UNREASONABLE. YET, IT WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE FOR PERSONNEL OF THE THREE ALLIED EMBASSIES IN EAST BERLIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 21091 02 OF 02 211627Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 ACDA-12 /073 W

-----116713 211658Z /43

O R 211614Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4194
AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 21091

TO SUBMIT TO SUCH PROCEDURES, AND AS EMBASSY BERLIN HAS
NOTED, WE WOULD BE FACED WITH ANOTHER TEST OF THE
DIPLOMATIC "FLASH" PROCEDURE AT CHECKPOINT CHARLIE.

5. WE PLAN TO ASK THE BONN GROUP TO MEET TOMORROW FOR
A PRELIMINARY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF
SUCH GDR ACTIONS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. TO SUPPLEMENT
OUR OWN CONSIDERATION, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER
INFORMATION USBER OR EMBASSY BERLIN MAY HAVE ON THE
MATTER OR ANY THOUGHTS ON APPROPRIATE ALLIED
REACTIONS. FOR EXAMPLE:

-- WHAT ARE THE NIGHTTIME PRACTICES OF SOVIET PATROLS
OR OTHER SOVIET MILITARY PERSONNEL? DO THEY NOW ENTER
WEST BERLIN BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND 6 A.M.? IF SO, WHICH
CHECKPOINTS DO THEY USE?

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 21091 02 OF 02 211627Z

-
-
-
-
-

-- WOULD USBER CONSIDER A PREEMPTIVE APPROACH TO THE
SOVIETS JUSTIFIED BY THE PRESENT STATE OF INFORMATION?
STOESSEL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BERLIN ACCESS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BONN21091
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770476-0073
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771233/aaaabbiz.tel
Line Count: 162
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6e3616ff-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BERLIN 9234, 77 USBERLIN 3174
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 162790
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RUMORS OF NEW GDR MOVES AFFECTING ACCESS TO EAST BERLIN
TAGS: PGOV, MILI, BQG, AKB
To: USBERLIN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6e3616ff-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009